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211-01

Practitioner's Docket No.: 892_015

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Masashi ONOUE

RECEIVED

Ser. No.: 09/761,844

Art Unit: 2165

JUL 10 2001

Filed: January 16, 2001

Examiner: Not Assigned Technology Center 2100

For: CHARGE INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, FRANCHISE SYSTEM PROVIDED WITH THE CHARGE INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS, CHARGE CALCULATING METHOD, RECORDING MEDIUM, AND PROGRAM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on July 2, 2001 under "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label number EL 80346 4606 US

Janet M. Stevens

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to a Communication (copy enclosed), which was received in a European Patent Application which corresponds with the present application. This communication is a Declaration Under EPC Rule 45, dated April 9, 2001 and mailed on May 17, 2001. The Declaration under EPC Rule 45 has been issued in place of a European Search Report.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

July 2, 2001

Date



Kevin C. Brown
Reg. No. 32,402

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JUL 10 2001

Technology Center 2100

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Janet M. Stevens

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Sir:

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was *first* cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

OR

No item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

July 2, 2001

Date

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